The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news economic and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor researching in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE— 2 BILLION DOLLARS IN WAR SAVINGS BONDS FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1630 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1942 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 32, NO. 27

FACING *the* FACTS

With PHILIP PEARL

The high-pressure boys have turned their heavy propaganda artillery on American workers and we fear that the hard-headed sons of toil who make up the rank and file of labor are getting a trifle fed up with these constant bombardments.

We've got a lot of respect for the mentality of the average American worker. He knows his ABC's and them scouts. In fact he knows a great deal more than many of the well-meaning amateurs who are trying to "sell" him the idea of working harder for victory.

We may be wrong. This question of "morals" is a tricky business. It has a lot of angles which defy even the basic rules of common-sense. But we have a deep inner conviction that the American worker does not have to be "sold" on this war the way high-pressure advertising campaigners go about selling cigarettes or soap to the public.

In fact, it is our belief that instead of being "sold" on this war, American workers from the beginning have been quite a bit of "soldiering" themselves to their fellow Americans. The records show, for instance, that the American Federation of Labor was the first national organization to place a boycott on Hitler's products and the first to condemn Hitler's brutal aggression. While our industry was busy selling war materials to Japan, the AFL was putting pressure on our Government to forbid such exports.

Everything Against Nothing

It isn't a bit strange that American labor was so far ahead of other segments of our population because the facts of totalitarianism were particularly painful to workers.

Hitler's first move when he came to power was to destroy the free and democratic trade unions of Germany. He seized the trade union leaders and sent them to concentration camps or had them executed. Deprived of the protection of their trade unions, German workers were forced into slavery. Their hours were lengthened, their pay was regulated by Hitler's agents, they couldn't even choose their own jobs. They were assigned to their duties, like soldiers. And if they didn't obey, they and their families were forced to pay heavily in suffering.

Now these things were perfectly clear to American workers long before we got into this war—not only clear, but thoroughly obnoxious. Even though at that time we were in the midst of a fearful depression here, even though we were told that there was no room for improvement, American labor leaders thanked their lucky stars that they were Americans and not Germans.

The moment America was forced into war, a lot of stuffed-shirt officials began marching up and down Labor Row and the byways of our industrial centers preaching to labor about labor's stake in the war. Those were well-meaning but wasted words. Labor knows full well this war is being fought for keeps and that the stakes are everything against nothing. Labor knows that America cannot afford to lose.

A Pat on the Back

But still we find the high-pressure boys lecturing labor, trying to whip on the workers with words and slogans, yelling for speed, speed and more speed.

We're not trying to bawl them out for doing this. They mean well and they are trying to do a constructive job. But we wish their efforts could be more intelligently directed.

For instance, the facts show that American workers are in there pitching and doing a swell job. Production schedules are being smashed every day in almost every vital war industry. New records of output are being established each month. The spirit that prevails is something which cannot be bought. Strikes today are a rarity and even when they do occur they don't last more than a day or two. A great measure of cooperation between labor and management is being obtained than ever before in industrial history.

Now these are outstanding achievements. They didn't come about from high-pressure salesmanship, but from the united and unquestionable determination of American workers to produce as never before to speed the day of victory.

Of course, we can't be satisfied with the record so far. Labor is going to keep on breaking records. But we doubt that this drive that stems from the hearts and souls of workers can be helped by sending out high-pressure boys to them.

What we suggest is that our high-pressure propagandists confine themselves to statements something like this:

"Boys, you're doing a swell job. Keep up the good work!"

A pat on the back of this kind will do more to make workers exert themselves even further than all the slogans in the world.

Ships Named After Labor's Heroes Will Be Launched On Labor Day

Washington, D. C.—Ships built by labor to keep America's life lines open will be launched with special ceremonies on Labor Day and named after labor's heroes.

A special ship-launching program has been prepared by the Maritime Committee and other interested agencies for labor's annual holiday which will even surpass the achievements of Maritime Day.

Among the great names of labor to be honored at the ship christening ceremonies are Samuel Gompers, Andrew Furuseth, Peter J. McGuire, the father of Labor Day.

Conferences are now being held to work out detailed plans for the occasion, with representatives of both AFL and CIO unions participating. It is planned that every major shipyard in the nation will launch at least one cargo vessel on Labor Day.

John P. Frey, president of the Metal Trades Department, AFL, will be in charge of the arrangements for the AFL, declared the celebration will make history. He said that high Government officials and members of Congress have agreed to take part in the ceremonies at the major launchings and their talks will be broadcast throughout the nation as part of the Labor Day celebration.

Green Sends Greetings To China, Urges More Relief To Defenders

New York City.—Greetings from William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, were broadcast to the Chinese people on the fifth anniversary of the war in China July 7 and the designation of July as China Month.

He asked that all possible help be sent through United China Relief immediately, crediting China with fighting a role vital to the United States at this time.

"I salute the courageous Chinese," he said, "for their five years' heroic resistance against the invader. Fighting against terrible odds with pitifully inadequate arms, they have successfully held off the mighty mechanized forces of Japan.

"Today the Chinese armies are engaging more than a million Japanese troops which would otherwise be sent to attack us. These unconquerable defenders of China at this moment are burning up more fuel, using more ammunition, than they ever have been supplied with before. We must do everything possible as a nation to provide them with modern implements of war so that the struggle can be equalized and our common enemy defeated.

"But there is more that we can do—each and every one of us, individually. We can and must help the Chinese people endure the terrible home defense by sending them funds, food, and medical aid through United China Relief.

"Our contributions to this essential cause will help speed the eventual victory of democracy."

850,000 Workers Get Pay Boosts In Shipyards and Navy Yards

Washington, D. C.—Over 250,000 workers in the government's navy yards and over 400,000 in private shipyards are to start drawing pay increases of 8 to 13 cents an hour in the next few weeks. This will add $1,000,000 a week to the payrolls in navy yards and over $2,000,000 in private yards.

The increases in the private yards were negotiated at a labor-management conference in Washington by Chicago last May, but actual payment of the boosts was held off pending ratification by the navy and shipbuilding labor and government agencies.

This ratification is now almost complete, the government's Shipbuilding Stabilization Committee announced, and checks will soon be served on shipbuilders to begin paying the raise. A few yards have already put the increase in effect. The new scales are to be retroactive to April 1 for West Coast shipyard workers; to June 2 for the Great Lakes, and June 23 for the Atlantic Coast, in accordance with dates fixed under stabilization agreements in these areas. Increases will be 8 cents an hour in each region.

On the Gulf Coast, however, the raises will range up to 13 cents an hour to bring the yards there on a parity with other sections of the country. The Gulf increases will go into effect August 1.

For the government navy yards, except on the Gulf, the higher pay levels became effective July 6. In the Washington navy yard, one of the nation's biggest, 17,000 workers will benefit from the wage order.

The navy increase was ordered to bring the government yards in line with the commercial shipyards.

The Metal Trades Department of the AFL played the leading role in obtaining all of these wage increases.

American Legion Lauds AFL Aid In Nation's War-Time Emergency

New York City.—The role of American labor in all of America's wars was eulogized in the American Legion's one-hour, nation-wide radio program over NBC on Independence Day.

Highlights in labor's history, as depicted by Ben Hecht in a pageant especially written for the May 30 "Labor For Victory" broadcast were included in the Legion's show.

Raymond J. Kelly, Legion Commander Stambaugh introduced AFL President William Green to the radio audience with a brief message. He said in part:

"America has been in first battle of this war—the battle of production. For this great achievement, our nation offers a salute on this Independence Day to its production soldiers—the heroes of the home front.

"Thus American workers again are proving themselves the backbone of the nation. Once again the American Federation of Labor is demonstrating its constructive contributions to the welfare of the Great Republic of which it is an everlasting and institutional part."

Labor Builds Hemisphere Solidarity, Nelson Rockefeller Acknowledges

Washington, D. C.—The framework of our present hemisphere solidarity has been built up "in great part by labor" by the efforts of organized labor, Nelson Rockefeller, coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, declared in the significant article in the July issue of the American Federationist.

America has become one of the first organized groups in the country to appreciate the possibilities and the need of hemisphere solidarity," he says.

The stake of American labor in enduring friendship among the republics of the Western Hemisphere is very great, Rockefeller declares, and he calls upon the trade unions of the United States to continue their efforts to stimulate interest in the Latin American nations. The unions have already done a great deal in this direction, he says, but "intensification" of this educational activity would be "a substantial contribution to the general war effort."

"The will of the people to achieve inter-American solidarity is the real foundation for success," Rockefeller says. "Every citizen can help strengthen the foundation by improving his knowledge about the problems involved and then helping to spread that knowledge in his own community."

Defining inter-American cooperation as "application in a practical way of the wisdom that is unity is strength," Rockefeller observes:

"In many ways it is the translation into the international scene of those principles which every union man knows have made for the strength of the labor movement and of social progress at home."

Rockefeller says it is "no coincidence" that the establishment of the Pan-American Union, the first great forward step toward inter-American cooperation, was accompanied by United States labor's first moves toward cooperation with workers in the other American republics. He points out that more than 50 years ago Samuel Gompers proclaimed his belief that the problems of labor throughout the hemisphere were linked.

Rockefeller says the growth of the labor movements in the republics to the south, says the article, "owes much to them and the labor movement of the United States have been strengthened by the contacts which have developed. Today the labor leaders in the nations of the hemisphere are increasingly familiar with one another's problems, he remarks.

Turning to the war, Rockefeller writes:

"The organized labor movement has recognized that this is indeed a people's war. Workers know that the united forces of the world's free peoples can and will win the war. They understand that a peace in which the standards they have won will be secure, and in which they can proceed with gains for themselves and their fellows, is the reward of victory. Such unity and cooperation is a vital factor in the victory of the United Nations."

UNION TAKES OVERTIME PAY IN WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

San Francisco, Calif.—West coast members of the Masters, Mates & Pilots (AFL) voted 2 to 1 to take overtime pay in war bonds and stamps. They also arranged to take half of their wage bonus the same way.

The program will be devoted to showing how women are helping the nation to win the war. Among the speakers will be Mrs. Mary Anderson, Director of the Women's Bureau of the Labor Department; Mrs. Bernice Hefner, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Government Employes and a representative of the American Federation of Women's Auxiliaries of Labor; Miss Clara Green, daughter of the president of the AFL, and a woman war worker whose son, a Marine Sergeant, was captured on Wake Island and is now a prisoner of the Japs.

AFL WILL PRESENT SALUTE TO WOMEN

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor will present a fitting salute to America's women in the AFL Labor For Victory radio program to be broadcast over NBC July 11 from 10:15 to 10:45 P.M., Eastern War Time.

GREEN CALLS CONFERENCE OF OFFICE WORKERS UNIONS

Washington, D. C.—In conformity with the action taken by the 1941 convention of the American Federation of Labor, President William Green issued a call for a national conference of all office workers unions at the Palmer House, Chicago, commencing at 10 A.M., July 28, 1942.

"This conference is called," President Green said, "for the purpose of reorganizing the American Federation of Office Workers International Council, dealing with the administrative affairs of said council, considering ways and means by which practical and successful organizing work may be carried on among office workers, and acting upon measures designed to promote the economic, industrial and social interests of the membership of office workers unions."

WAR EFFORT OF UNIONS ENTHUSES MOVIE STAR

Waterbury, Conn.—Gloria Stuart, beautiful motion picture actress, is proud of the union card she holds in the Screen Actors Guild (AFL), she told a cheering crowd at a Labor for Victory rally here sponsored by AFL, CIO and railroad unions.

"Every time," Gloria said, "I see the great contribution organized labor is making to the winning of this war, I become even prouder of my own union card. It must be the free workers of the world who will bring the war to a victorious conclusion."

Labor Has Prepared U. S. For War, Smashing All Production Records, Green Reveals At Detroit Rally

Highlights of Pres. Green's Address

Detroit.—Following are highlights from the address of President William Green at the labor rally here sponsored by the United States Army on Independence Day:

America is now prepared for all-out war! Very, soon we will be ready to strike at the enemies of democracy with the full power and fury of our armed forces, backed up by the most devastating and inexhaustible supply of war weapons the world has ever seen. That is our victory message on this Independence Day to Hitler and Hirohito and Mussolini!

And that is also the answer of American labor to the question:—What are you doing in this war? For in the short seven months since Pearl Harbor American workers have done what was considered impossible and have made "fantastic" production goals come true.

* * *

The men and women who make up the ranks of American labor constitute in themselves a vital margin of superiority which will prove a decisive factor in the winning of the war. For they have proved an obvious truth—that free labor will outproduce slave labor.

No one has to crack the whip over American labor. Our workers and their trade union representatives are in this fight to a finish. There is nothing they can do, no sacrifice they can make, that they will not gladly offer if their own free will.

For this is their war—labor's war. They are not working and fighting for a cruel and conscienceless dictator. They are working and fighting for themselves and for the human race. They are conscious of their responsibilities, alert to their opportunities and inspired by their mission.

To this great army of free American production soldiers the nation today renders a salute—for a tremendous achievement. They have won the first battle of this war—the battle of production. And in modern warfare, production is the key to victory.

* * *

I have no hesitation in predicting that when our fighting forces take their place on the battlefronts and are backed up by the vast flow of arms which is now rolling off the assembly lines, the fortunes of war will change swiftly and victory will be assured.

* * *

American workers, serving on the home production front, are not confining their contributions toward winning the war to hard work alone. They are giving their sons and brothers to our army and navy. They are tightening their belts and buying War Bonds with every spare dollar. They are giving their blood to the Red Cross, and they are supporting every worthy war relief agency. Finally, they are training themselves in their own time after working hours for civilian defense, to protect our homeland against any enemy attack.

* * *

On the first Independence Day, 166 years ago, the people of America were fighting a war to win freedom. Today the American people are in the midst of another and more terrible war to preserve that freedom and to extend it to every part of the globe.

What do we mean by freedom? We include in that basic term, the four fundamental freedoms enunciated by President Roosevelt—freedom of speech and worship and freedom from want and fear. But we of labor insist that a fifth freedom be added to this charter of liberty—freedom of the workers to join democratic trade unions of their own choosing.

This freedom, we have seen, is feared more by the dictators than any other because in every victimized nation their first act has been to destroy the trade unions. They know that trade unions are the natural enemy of totalitarianism. And the workers know that these unions are their best protection against economic, social and political oppression.

* * *

The result of our Revolutionary War was the creation of the United States of America. The result of this war will be the establishment of the United Nations of the world.

For we know now that freedom cannot exist and flourish if it is confined to any one nation or to any one hemisphere. Freedom is not the selfish privilege of any race or nationality or group in human society. It is the natural endowment of all mankind. It must prevail throughout the world.

"We know now that the existence of tyranny and oppression in any country constitutes a constant and recurring threat to the survival of human liberty in every other nation. We have paid dearly for that knowledge. We fought the last war and sacrificed millions of lives to discover that truth. Armed with that knowledge and that truth we will not win this war in vain!"

Gen. Somervell, who is in charge of the Army Service Forces and is supplying the fighting men with all the weapons they need, declared that labor is "the union of the United States of America."

"The days are high—self-sacrifice and long, hard toil.

"The hours are long, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"The benefits are immeasurable."

Gen. Somervell thanked Mr. Green and Mr. Murray for taking part in the program and added:

"Now that we've broken the ice, now that we've got together, let's stay together. Let's keep this going. Let's ask management to sit in with us. Let's make our team all-American."

AFL Chief Urges Freedom Be World-Wide After War Victory

Detroit — American workers in record-breaking time have prepared America for all-out war against the Axis, AFL President William Green told the nation in an Independence Day broadcast.

Mr. Green spoke at a labor rally here sponsored by the United States Army and his address, as well as those by Gen. Brehon Somervell and CIO President Philip Murray, were heard from coast to coast over an NBC network.

"The nation's armed forces will be ready to strike at the enemies of democracy "very soon," Mr. Green declared, and they will be backed up by "the most devastating and inexhaustible supply of war weapons the world has ever seen."

For their achievement in winning the battle of production in the seven short months since Pearl Harbor, the men and women of labor deserve the salute of the nation, Mr. Green said.

American labor has done the hard work necessary to win this war, he continued, and when our boys are given the opportunity to face the enemy on equal terms on the battle lines, the enemy will know what hard fighting means."

Just as the people of America were fighting a war to win freedom 166 years ago, today all Americans are fighting another and more terrible war to preserve that freedom and extend it to every part of the globe, Mr. Green declared. He added:

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"Lunchtime Follies" All-Star Show Now Available To War Workers

New York City.—Topnotch Broadway entertainment is now available to war production workers in New England and the Middle Atlantic States. Traveling shows, sponsored by the American Theater Wing, and headed by Gertrude Lawrence, will make a tour of these plants. The shows consist of sketches and songs for the amusement of war workers during their lunch hour.

This is a project organized by the entertainment unions of the American Federation of Labor for the benefit of the nation's production soldiers. The personnel committee in charge of the project consists of Moss Hart and George Heller as chairmen; Kermit Bloomgarden as general manager; Aline MacMahon as secretary, and Bert Lytell, head of Actors' Equity.

Sketches have been written by such top-flight playwrights as George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart, Harold J. Rome, of "Pins and Needles" fame, is one of the well known song writers contributing his efforts. The casts are made up of well-known entertainers.

Costs of these shows are paid for by the management at the plants where they are put on. If any union is interested in securing this entertainment for war workers, please communicate with George Heller, American Federation of Radio Artists, New York City.

UNIONS URGE FUNDS FOR UNITED NATIONS RELIEF

New York, N. Y.—Three international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, with a combined membership of over three-quarters of a million, are going all-out for the United Nations Relief of the Labor League for Human Rights, whose president, D. Matthew Woll, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor.

President Mahon of the Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employes; President Brown of the International Association of Machinists, and Secretary-Treasurer Frost of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes International Alliance and Bartenders International League, have urged their locals to contribute liberally to the Labor League which is coordinating organized labor's contributions to the war effort. The program has received the approval of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor.

CAMDEN CANNERY WORKERS WIN TWO PAY BOOST PACTS

Camden, N. J.—Meat and Cannery Workers Local Union 56, Amalgamated Food and Beverage Workers of North America, has negotiated a new wage agreement with the P. J. Ritter Company carrying a 4½ cents hourly increase in pay plus 3½ per cent bonus on the gross earnings for the year and an additional 3½ per cent bonus retroactive to January 1. The union has also renewed its contract with the Trenton Packing Company granting all employees from three to four-dollar increases.